

Chapter 13: Tribal Enforcement

Section 13.065: Handling Public Disclosure and Confidentiality Issues on Tribal Cases

This section discusses disclosure of information and records with officials from federally recognized Indian tribes.

CONTENTS

Laws	RCW 26.23.120 information and records, confidentiality, disclosure WAC 388-14A-2105 - 2160 confidentiality 42 USC 654 cooperative child support agreements 42 USC 655 direct federal funding to Indian tribes 42 USC 612 tribal TANF Chapter 26.25 RCW cooperative child support services - tribes
Policy	<p>Under PRWORA, Indian tribes can operate their own TANF program, child support program, and enter into cooperative child support agreements with the state.</p> <p>DCS and the ESA State Tribal Relations Unit (STRU) work with Indian tribes to negotiate <u>cooperative agreements</u>, <u>informal processes</u> or develop case specific processes that address child support. These processes and agreements often include referring a case to the tribe for a particular child support action.</p> <p>DCS can disclose information and records to officials of federally recognized tribes if disclosure is necessary for child support program purposes.</p>
Procedure	<p>Consult your regional Tribal Liaison, Public Disclosure Coordinator (PDC), and/or STRU with questions regarding disclosure.</p> <p>When you receive a request for information, follow local office procedure for releasing information and/or referring the request to the PDC.</p>
Visual Aids	<u>Tribal Relations</u> Internet site <u>Tribal Charts 1</u> <u>SEMS Web TI</u> - Tribal Information
Automated Actions	
SEMS Screens	<u>CC</u>
Forms Used	
Hearing and Conference Board Rights	Refer all requests to the Regional Tribal Liaison or Tribal Claims Officer.
See Also	<u>Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989</u> <u>DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01</u> <u>Chapter 22 - Public Disclosure</u> <u>Hearing and Conference Board Rights</u>

PROCEDURES

A. Who handles public disclosure issues regarding tribal matters?

1. Your initial point of contact is your Regional Tribal Liaison or Tribal Claims Officer.
2. The Tribal Liaison or Tribal Claims Officer may refer the matter to the Public Disclosure Coordinator (PDC).

B. Can I release case information to a federally recognized Indian tribe for child support enforcement purposes?

- . Yes, if the disclosure is for program purposes.

Note: If the CP contacts the tribe directly for tribal assistance in a child support case, require the CP to sign a release before releasing case specific information to the tribe. A release is unnecessary if the CP receives tribal TANF or the tribe has a cooperative agreement with DCS. Contact your Tribal Liaison if you have any questions.